



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

September 27, 1968

Mr. Carl E. Duckett  
Deputy Director  
Science and Technology  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Duckett:

You are cordially invited to witness the first manned Apollo launch now scheduled no earlier than 11:00 a.m. EDT, October 11, 1968, at the John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

The 10.8-day earth-orbital mission is designated Apollo 7. Astronaut Walter M. Schirra, a veteran of the Mercury and Gemini Programs, is Commander. His crew includes Donn F. Eisele, Command Module Pilot; and Walter Cunningham, Lunar Module Pilot, both making their first space flights.

The Apollo 7 mission will demonstrate performance of the spacecraft's command and service modules, the crew, and the support facilities.

A Saturn IB rocket will boost the Apollo from Launch Complex 34 into a 120-by-150 nautical mile orbit. During the second revolution, the flight crew will separate the Apollo from the launch vehicle's upper stage and perform a transposition and simulated docking maneuver similar to the one to be performed on a mission to the Moon.

If you will be able to attend the launch, please advise the NASA Protocol Office by writing to Code FGE, Headquarters, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D.C. 20546, or by calling 202/962-4351. It would be a good idea to make your travel and lodging accommodations immediately. There are a number of good motels in the Cape Kennedy area, but these facilities become very limited during a major launch.

Just prior to the launch date, a NASA Protocol Office will be opened in the Terrace Room of the Quality Courts Motel at Cocoa Beach, where you may obtain information and guest credentials. Transportation to carry you from Cocoa Beach to the launch viewing site and return will be provided.

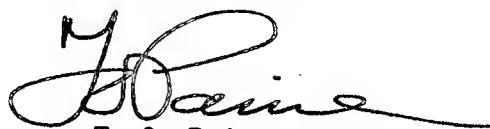
NASA review completed

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Delays are always possible in a launch of this complexity. In the event of a postponement, the invitation is, of course, extended to the new date. A tour of the facilities at the Kennedy Space Center will be available in any event.

Beginning October 4, a telephone information service will be in 24-hour operation until the day of the launch to provide details of the launch status, mission preparation and the current launch time. The number is 202/962-2428.

Sincerely yours,



T. O. Paine  
Deputy Administrator